



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**  
Memphis District

**ISSUE DATE: 12 May 2006**

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**PUBLIC NOTICE**

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**EXPIRATION DATE: 30 June 2006**

**AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT EA/FONSI**

**REPLY TO:**

**ATTN: Mike Thron**

**Environmental Analysis Branch**

**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS**

167 North Main Street, Room B-202

Memphis, Tennessee 38103-1894

Tele: (901) 544-0708

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**TITLE:** Gammon Berm, Crittenden County, Arkansas, Seepage Control

**AUTHORITY:** The project is authorized by the Flood Control Act of 1928, as amended.

**LOCATION:** The proposed seepage berm extension is located in northeast Arkansas near Gammon, Crittenden County. The project is shown on the West Memphis, AR-TN, and the Jericho, AR-TN, 1:24,000 quadrangle maps (See enclosed map).

**TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:** Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 as amended, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District is issuing this notice with the intention of installing a berm extension for seepage control along the Mississippi River Levee.

**PURPOSE:** The seepage berm is needed to control the seepage that occurs during flood conditions on the Mississippi River and to assure that the levee system is safe from a project flood event. Seepage could undermine the levee if unabated. Sand boils are already present in the project area on the landside of the levee.

**ALTERNATIVES:** There were three alternatives considered for this project.



*Alternative 1: No Action:* The no-action alternative is defined as termination of the project. Continued seepage during flood conditions would keep carrying sands and silts under the levee causing additional sand boils. This could eventually lead to levee failure during a major flood event. Failure of the levee would result in property damage and could cause human injuries and/or loss of life.

*Alternative 2: Install Relief Wells to Reduce Landside Seepage Pressures:* This alternative would involve installing relief wells along the landside of the Mississippi River Levee.

*Alternative 3: Installing a Landside Seepage Berm Extension:* This alternative would consist of extending the existing seepage berm on the landside toe of the levee to so as minimize impacts of seep water flowing underneath the levee.

After careful consideration of all alternatives, it was determined that Alternative 1 (no action) was unacceptable. Alternative 2 (relief wells) was costly and would require construction of additional drainage ditches. It could also cause flooding with the area. Therefore, Alternative 3 was selected as the preferred plan.

**DESCRIPTION OF WORK:** The work consists of extending the existing landside seepage berm for approximately 1.3 miles between levee miles 138/00+00 and 139/20+00 along the Mississippi River mainline levee. Fill material would be obtained from one to two borrow pits located riverside of the levee. If sufficient suitable material is available from the area labeled Borrow Pit 1 on the map, then no other material would be required. However, if this pit does not contain an adequate amount of suitable material, material would be obtained from the area labeled Borrow Pit 2 on the project map. Impacts were assessed based on the assumption that both pits would be utilized during project construction. Two existing stop log culvert structure would be replaced, and two more stop log culvert structures would be constructed along the seepage berm to provide drainage.

**WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION:** There would be no deposition of material into any wetlands or other waters of the U.S. Thus, a section 404(b)(1) evaluation and water quality certification are not required.

**ENDANGERED SPECIES:** Memphis District personnel conducted a site visit on 13 April 2006. No threatened or endangered species were found in the project area. The project is being coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

**CULTURAL RESOURCES:** In 1995, a cultural resources survey was conducted by Mid-Continental Research Associates. The survey reach was along 3.5 miles of the existing Gammon berm. The proposed project is located within this area. Four archeological sites were recorded, three (3CT327, 3CT326, and 3CT329) of which are historic, postdating 1900 and not considered significant. The fourth site (3CT326) has prehistoric and historic components and is considered potentially significant. It is not located within the project area and therefore, would not be impacted by the proposed project. The Arkansas State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and concerned Federally recognized American Indian tribes were informed of the project. The SHPO responded that no historic properties would be affected by the project. A copy of the



Public Notice and this draft EA will be sent to the SHPO and concerned Federally recognized tribes for their review and comments.

Should deeply buried artifacts or other site indicators be uncovered during construction, the Memphis District Staff Archeologist, Arkansas State Historic Preservation Office, and Federally recognized tribes will be immediately notified to ensure compliance with all Federal and state laws and regulations.

**PUBLIC INTEREST REVIEW:** The purpose of this public notice is to advise all interested parties of the proposed activities and to solicit comments and information necessary to evaluate the probable impact on the public interest. This notice is being circulated to federal, state and local agencies and to the public.

The decision to proceed with this project will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact, including cumulative impacts, of the activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The potential benefits that reasonably may be expected to accrue from the activity must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the activity will be considered, including the cumulative effects thereof; among the factors considered are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; federal, state and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of the proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to modify or condition the project. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in preparation of the final environmental assessment and/or a draft environmental impact statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and are also used to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity. **The draft environmental assessment (EA), and draft finding of no significant impact (FONSI) will be circulated to agencies and any other parties that respond to this notice requesting copies. Copies of these documents have been placed on the District's website at:**

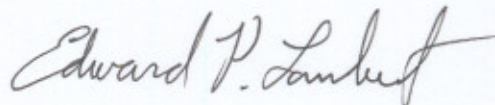
**<http://www.mvm.usace.army.mil/regulatory/public-notices/pn.htm>**

**PUBLIC HEARING:** Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this proposed project. Requests for a public hearing shall clearly state the reason for holding a public hearing. The District Engineer will determine if the issues raised are substantial and whether a hearing is needed in order to reach a decision on the project. Failure of any agency or individual to comment on this notice will be interpreted to mean that there is no objection to the proposed work.



**COMMENTS OR REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** If you wish to obtain additional information or to submit comments on this proposal, please contact Mike Thron at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Environmental Branch (PM-E), 167 North Main Street, RM B-202, Memphis, Tennessee 38103-1894, telephone 901/544-0708. **Comments should be forwarded to this office by June 30, 2005.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Edward P. Lambert". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Edward P. Lambert  
Acting Chief, Environmental Branch

Enclosure



# Gammon, Arkansas Seepage Berm

